

March 5, 2007 COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

Testimony in SUPPORT of Raised Bill 7161, An Act Revising the Definition of Advanced Nursing Practice

Senator Handley, Representative Sayers and Members of the Public Health Committee:

Dear Members of the Public Health Committee:

I am writing in support of HB 7161. I have been a Clinical Nurse Specialist with a specialty in mental health since 1974, and a licensed APRN since 1992. I have been in private practice many of those years. I have had the experience of needing to find an M.D. for a written collaborative agreement. The only way I located one who was willing to do this was through an APRN colleague.

After six years this M.D. decided to work in a clinic setting and informed me she would no longer carry her own malpractice insurance. This meant I would need to stop providing care for the over 200 patients I was seeing or find another willing M.D. The search was very difficult.

I was beginning to get fearful when I happened to be at a meeting where an M.D. I knew from a previous position at the Conn. Valley Hospital appeared. I was very relieved when he agreed to sign a collaborative agreement. He has mentioned several times that he has not explored the liability for me with his insurer.

He also asks me to provide vacation and weekend coverage for his patients. He does not see my patients nor do I see his. We do meet regularly to discuss cases as agreed. I plan on continuing this arrangement even if it is not required. This mutual respect has been what true collaboration means among all members of the health care community: trust.

Please vote in support of this bill.

Respectfully,
Marilyn A. Richard, Ed.D. APRN
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